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Sens. Stamas and Allen welcome Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association to Lansing

Lansing – State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, welcomed members of Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association to the state Capitol today for their second annual legislative meeting.

"I'm glad they were able to take time out of their busy schedules to come down and meet with us," Stamas said. "This event will help bridge the gap between Lansing and northeast Michigan and help us meet the requests and needs of our constituents. We are all working together for northeast Michigan."

Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association, founded in 1988, serves as a regional marketing organization for nine northeast Michigan counties: Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw, Alcona, Oscoda, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan.

"It is essential to keep the lines of communication open," Allen said. "Working with groups like Michigan's Sunrise Side Association, we can collaborate together to promote tourism and economic prosperity in the area."

With approximately 400 members, the association promotes and develops tourism in northeast Michigan, which in turns promotes economic development.

"We come to interact with our representatives and senators and different department heads to develop partnerships," said Tom Ferguson, executive director of the Sunrise Side Association. "This day gives community leaders an opportunity to come to Lansing and open a line of communication with state officials that will last through the year. Now everyone will know who to call and what department does what."

Members of the Sunrise Side group also met with state representatives, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and officials from Travel Michigan and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

(More)

According to Ferguson, the number of members in attendance doubled since last year and the group plans on holding the event again next year.

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Editor's note: A photo of the Sen. Stamas and Sen. Allen speaking to Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Index.htm